

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable media device, comprising:
a memory configured to store digital content;
a wireless transceiver configured to wirelessly transmit and receive digital content;
an output configured to render digital content; and
a controller coupled to the memory, the wireless transceiver and the output, the controller being configured to control wireless transmission and rendering of digital content based upon meta-data associated with the digital content.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to control playback of digital content stored in the memory based upon a user license confirmation.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to confirm a user license for a digital content based upon meta-data associated with the digital content.

4. The device of claim 3, wherein the controller is configured to confirm a user license based upon a comparison of a user identifier embedded in the meta-data with a user identifier stored in the memory.

5. The device of claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to limit playback of the digital content in response to a failed user license confirmation.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein the controller is configured to enable playback of only a sample of the digital content in response to a failed user license confirmation.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to direct received digital content selectively to unrestricted memory storage or to restricted memory storage based upon a user license confirmation.

1 8. The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to direct
2 licensed digital content to unrestricted memory storage and to direct unlicensed
3 digital content to restricted memory storage.

1 9. The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to restrict
2 storage of unlicensed digital works to a predetermined quantity.

1 10. The device of claim 7, wherein the controller is configured to enable
2 wireless transmission of digital content stored in unrestricted memory and to prevent
3 wireless transmission of digital content stored in restricted memory.

1 11. The device of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to decrypt
2 encrypted digital content with a cryptographic key stored in the memory.

1 12. A digital content distribution system, comprising:
2 two or more portable media devices each comprising a memory for storing
3 digital content and a transceiver for wirelessly transmitting digital content to and
4 wirelessly receiving digital content from another portable media device; and
5 a license manager configured to associate digital content with meta-data for
6 controlling wireless transmission and rendering of digital content from one portable
7 media device to another.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the licensed distributor is configured
2 to embed a user identifier in meta-data associated with purchased digital content.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to
2 allocate incentives based upon meta-data associated with purchased digital content.

1 15. The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to
2 allocate an incentive to a digital content distributor in response to a purchase of the
3 corresponding digital content by a user of a portable media device storing meta-data
4 with an appropriate embedded distributor identifier.

1 16. The system of claim 12, wherein the license manager is configured to
2 allocate an incentive to a user of a portable media device containing restricted
3 playback digital content in response to a purchase of the corresponding digital
4 content by the user.

1 17. The system of claim 12, further comprising a licensed distributor
2 configured to transmit to one or more portable media devices meta-data associated
3 with broadcasted digital content and containing an embedded distributor identifier.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the license manager is configured to
2 allocate an incentive to the digital content distributor in response to a purchase of
3 the corresponding digital content by a user of a portable media device storing the
4 meta-data with the embedded distributor identifier.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the licensed distributor is configured
2 to allocate incentives based upon meta-data associated with purchased digital
3 content.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the licensed distributor is configured
2 to allocate an incentive to a user of a portable media device containing restricted
3 playback digital content in response to a purchase of the corresponding digital
4 content by the user.

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